

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/537,629

Applicant(s)

SCHRODER ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Kiran B. Patel

3612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 9/22/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 17-23 and 32-37.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>6/3/05</u> | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

Examiner's Amendment and
Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
Allowance (9/23/06)

1. This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

Species A - directed towards claims 17-23, 32-26, a door module.

Species B - directed towards claims 24-31, a vehicle door.

2. During a telephone conversation with Mr. Anderson 8/21/06 a provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of Species A, claims 17-23, 32-26. Applicant in replying to this Office action must make affirmation of this election. Claims 24-31 withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

3. An Examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee. Authorization for the following Examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Anderson 8/21/06.

The claims were further amended to read as follows:

1-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Amendment) A door module for a vehicle door having a ~~structural shell~~ sealing flange, the door module comprising:

an interior trim having at least one projection;

a separating sheet dividing the vehicle door into a dry chamber and a wet chamber;

~~at least one vehicle component at least partially disposed in the dry chamber and extending through the separating sheet;~~

~~wherein a contact pressure zone to seal the dry chamber is provided by one or more projections extending from the interior trim and~~

~~pressing~~ one or more clips configured to bias the interior trim toward the sealing flange so that the at least one projection presses the separating sheet against the ~~structural shell~~ sealing flange.

18. (Previously Presented) The door module of claim 17, wherein the interior trim comprises a reinforcing element and the projection extends from either the interior trim or the reinforcing element.
19. (Previously Presented) The door module of claim 17, wherein the at least one projection comprises a pair of ribs.
20. (Previously Presented) The door module of claim 19, further comprising a sealant introduced between the ribs and arranged on the separating sheet.
21. (Previously Presented) The door module of claim 20, wherein the sealant comprises a bead of sealant covered with a peel-off protective film before the assembly of the module.
22. (Previously Presented) The door module of claim 17, wherein the separating sheet comprises at least one layer of a closed-cell foam.
23. (Previously Presented) The door module claim 17, wherein the separating sheet comprises a first layer comprising of an open-cell plastic foam and a second layer of a closed-cell foam.
- 24-31 cancelled.

32. (Amendment) A door module for a vehicle door that is divided in a sealed manner into an outer wet door chamber facing a door shell, and an inner dry door chamber facing an interior trim and including mechanical or electrical functional components that are coupled in a preassembled manner on the door module in the dry door chamber ~~and can be mechanically or electrically coupled to door components arranged in the wet door chamber, the~~ a seal between the dry door chamber and the wet door chamber being formed by a separating sheet that is penetrated ~~in a sealed manner~~ by a connector clip ~~for the functional components secured on the door module on the near side of the separating sheet, wherein an interior decorative trim of the door module or a reinforcing element arranged on the interior decorative trim have one or more contact pressure zones that preferably extend about a periphery of the door module and onto which the separating sheet can be~~ is pressed in a sealing manner by contact with at least one projection extending from the interior trim on to the door shell and the clip coupling the interior trim to the door shell.

33. (Amendment) The door module of claim 32, wherein the functional components ~~on the connector~~ are at least partly arranged directly on a flat side of the interior ~~decorative~~ trim of the door module that is facing the dry chamber.

34. (Amendment) The door module of claim 33, wherein the functional components ~~on the connector~~ are at least partly arranged on ~~the~~ a reinforcing element that is coupled to the interior ~~decorative~~ trim of the door module.

35 (Previously Presented) The door module of claim 32, wherein the door module is engaged in a latching manner with the door shell in a direction perpendicular to the door shell while forming the mechanical or electrical coupling between the functional components and the door components.

36 (Previously Presented) The door module claim 32, wherein the separating sheet is preassembled on the door module which is then coupled to the door shell.

37. (New) The door module claim 17, further comprising at least one vehicle component at least partially disposed in the dry chamber and extending through the separating sheet.


4. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The primary reason for the allowance of the claims in this case, is the inclusion of the limitation "an interior trim having at least one projection; a separating sheet dividing the vehicle door into a dry chamber and a wet chamber; one or more clips configured to bias the interior trim toward the sealing flange so that the at least one projection presses the separating sheet against the sealing

flange" in the independent claim, in combination with the other recited limitations in claims supported by this application, which are not found in the prior art of record.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications should be directed to Primary Examiner Kiran B. Patel whose telephone number is 571-272-6665. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8:00 to 5:00. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.


Kiran B. Patel, P. E.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3612
September 23, 2006